

Strepsilas interpres (No. 196, Ibis, 1864, p. 148). As every record of rare visitors is interesting, I may here mention that an adult male and female, in breeding-plumage, of this species were shot on Fort Manoel Island in the third week of May, and later in the same month three others were exhibited for sale in the market.

Pelecanus onocrotalus? (No. 229, Ibis, 1864, p. 154). I have again to note the occurrence of a species of Pelican on our shores. On the 10th of June, one was seen at the Marsa, where the excavations for the extension of the Great Harbour are going on. It settled on the mud close to one of the steam-engines for pumping out water in the north-west basin. A man went for a gun; but when he came back the bird had flown.

Malta, June 26, 1865.

. Mr. Wright having been so obliging as to transmit to us the specimens both of *Chætusia leucura* and *Charadrius longipes*, described in the foregoing paper, we take this opportunity of giving an illustration of the former, a species which, we believe, has only been figured in the rare French work above mentioned.—ED.

XXXVII.—Notes on the Birds of Southern Texas.

By H. E. DRESSER.

[Continued from page 330.]

GEOCOCCYX CALIFORNIANUS (Lesson). Paisano.

Abundant throughout the whole mezquite region, and more particularly so near the Rio Grande. I found eggs of this bird

p. 53); but that bird should have *only* the base of the *under* mandible orange and the feet ash-colour, whereas the specimens we have seen of the smaller race of *Æ. hiaticula* have always the base of the *upper* mandible orange *also*, and the feet yellow. Notwithstanding these discrepancies and a few others, we are almost inclined to think this was the bird M. Ménétries had before him when describing his *Charadrius intermedius*, which he found to be not rare on the river Lenkoranka, near the Caspian. In the last line of his description, where he says, “il a du reste la taille beaucoup plus svelte que le *C. minor*,” there is a manifest misprint, *C. hiaticula* being doubtless the bird intended to be referred to. We are indebted to Mr. Gurney for a specimen of a Ringed Plover from Natal, which seems to agree in every essential respect with those of the small race killed at Brighton, or rather Shoreham.—ED.]

near San Antonio, in April and May, and even as late as the 23rd September had them brought to me by the vaqueros. It builds a clumsy nest of mezquite-twigs, generally placed at some height on a bough or in the hollow of a mezquite or oak tree, and lays two to four pure white eggs. The food of the Paisano seems to consist entirely of small snakes, lizards, ticks, and large insects, and probably also of field-mice; for when domesticated, it catches mice, and eats them. I examined the stomachs of many, and invariably found them to contain small snakes, lizards, and ticks.

The Mexicans often keep this bird in a semidomesticated state, in order to kill them in case of sickness; for they firmly believe that their flesh is a certain cure for many disorders. I had one at Matamoras which became very tame, and at last so mischievous that I could not let it remain in the house. It would steal and hide anything it could carry off, and was particularly fond of tearing up letters, spilling the ink, and the like. I never had it caged or tied up, and it would frequently pay the neighbours a visit, always, however, returning before evening. I fed it on raw meat, or lizards when I could procure them. I have never seen a wild Paisano on the wing, though I have chased them on horseback, and can bear testimony to their great speed on foot. "Jack," my tame bird, flew with ease, and was very fond of perching on the housetop. He had a strange antipathy to a tame Parrot I had for a short time; and whenever I let it out of the cage, he would ruffle his feathers, get into a regular rage, and finally decamp to some of the neighbours, or go on to the housetop.

COCYZUS AMERICANUS (Linnæus). Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Not uncommon during the summer at Matamoras and Brownsville. It is very common near San Antonio, where it arrives about the middle of April, and immediately begins to build its nest. This is a very scanty structure, composed of dry twigs, lined with a few grass-straws, generally placed on one of the larger limbs of an oak or mezquite tree; and the bird lays therein four eggs of a delicate pale blue colour, sometimes clouded with white. Near the Medina River I found altogether about six or seven nests, and could doubtless have found many more had I

been able to spare the time to hunt after them. The birds were not shy, frequently remaining on the nest until I had climbed the tree, and, when leaving the nest, seldom going far away. I do not think the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) is found in Southern or Western Texas, as neither Dr. Heermann nor I have ever noticed it.

CAMPEPHILUS PRINCIPALIS (Linnæus). Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

This bird is found on the Brazos River, where the timber is large; and a planter living on the Trinity River told me that it is not uncommon there. A friend of mine on the Brazos promised to procure the eggs for me, but wrote to me, in May 1864, saying that he had been to the nest and found it to contain young ones. He said that these birds are by no means rare on the Upper Brazos.

PICUS PUBESCENS, Linnæus. Downy Woodpecker.

Occasionally found about San Antonio, but it is a rare visitor there. I shot one near that town on the 1st April, 1864; and Dr. Heermann procured one on the Medina several years ago.

PICUS SCALARIS, Wagler. Texan Sapsucker.

Resident and very common throughout all Texas and North-eastern Mexico, it being, by the way, the only Woodpecker I shot near Matamoras. It breeds abundantly about San Antonio, boring into any tree it finds most suitable.

Male. Iris dark hazel; beak dark horn-blue; legs greenish grey.

PICOIDES — ?

I noticed a yellow-crowned Woodpecker near Matamoras in July 1863, but, though I followed it for some distance, I was unable to shoot it.

SPHYRAPICUS VARIUS (Linnæus). Yellow-bellied Woodpecker.

Found near San Antonio at all seasons of the year, but rather rare than otherwise. I shot a couple near the Medina River, and Dr. Heermann procured the eggs there some years ago.

Beak dark horn-blue; iris dark brown; legs greenish grey.

HYLATOMUS PILEATUS (Linnæus). Pileated Woodpecker.

Resident and pretty common near all the large rivers where the timber is heavy. A few are found on the Medina, and the eggs have been taken there; but they are not common in that district. On the Colorado and Brazos Rivers this bird was very common, and I found several nests in huge cotton-wood trees, but had no means of getting up to them; besides which, I could not stop long enough to undertake such a task.

Male. Upper mandible bluish-black; lower mandible light blue; iris pale reddish-orange; legs dull black.

CENTRURUS CAROLINUS (Linnæus). Red-bellied Woodpecker. Common and resident.

CENTRURUS FLAVIVENTRIS, Swainson. Yellow-bellied or Mezquite-Woodpecker.

I found this beautiful Woodpecker plentiful from the Rio Grande to San Antonio, and as far north and east as the Guadalupe River, after which I lost sight of it. Wherever the mezquite trees are pretty large, there it is to be found, and (so far as my experience goes) very sparingly elsewhere. Near San Antonio it is pretty common, but not so much so as *Centrurus carolinus*. At Eagle Pass, however, it is much commoner than that species.

It breeds near San Antonio, boring for its nest-hole into a mezquite tree; and Dr. Heermann, who has cut out many of their nests, tells me he has never found one in any but a mezquite tree.

Male. Beak dark horn-blue; iris bright red; legs lead-grey.

MELANERPES ERYTHROCEPHALUS (Linnæus). Red-headed Woodpecker.

Travelling from Brownsville to San Antonio, I first noticed this bird near the Nueces River. Near San Antonio it is resident, and not uncommon; and on the Guadalupe, Colorado, and Brazos Rivers, it is by far the commonest Woodpecker, so that one cannot walk through the wooded "bottom-lands" without seeing at least half a dozen. Near the Medina it is also found, and on the 5th May I found a nest there.

COLAPTES AURATUS (Linnæus). Yellow-shafted Flicker.

We procured a single specimen near San Antonio early in June, this being the only one I saw during my stay in Texas.

COLAPTES MEXICANUS, Swainson. Red-shafted Flicker.

Found occasionally near San Antonio, but of uncommon occurrence. In December 1863 I noticed several near the Nueces River, on the Eagle Pass road ; and in February and March 1864 I shot three near Piedras Negras.

TROCHILUS COLUBRIS, Linnæus. Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Occasionally noticed near Matamoras in July and August. During the winter I observed one or two near San Antonio, on warm days. Early in April, on the weather becoming warmer, they were very numerous near San Antonio, and generally to be found about the large cotton-wood trees. I knew of two nests in low willows overhanging the San Pedro, which were, however, washed away on the 6th June, when that river overflowed its banks after a heavy storm of rain.

CHÆTURA — ?

Late in April and early in May, quantities of Swifts passed over San Antonio, travelling in a northerly direction ; and when out after horses on the Medina on the 5th of the latter month, they were passing overhead all day long. I was unable to shoot one, to see of what species they were, as they generally flew at so great a height ; but so far as I could see, they seemed to be of a uniform dark colour.

ANTROSTOMUS CAROLINENSIS (Gmelin). Chuck-Wills-Widow.

[Comes to the neighbourhood of San Antonio in the spring, and remains to raise its young.—A. L. H.]

I noticed several on the Medina on the 26th April and early in May. On the 18th of this last month I found them very numerous at New Braunfels, and also at Bastrop on the 20th May.

ANTROSTOMUS NUTTALLI (Audubon). Nuttall's Whip-poor-Will.

[I killed one on the Medina. In passing along Devil's

River during the summer, I heard the note every evening, and judge that this bird is abundant there.—A. L. H.]

I obtained a single specimen, shot near the town of San Antonio, where it is of uncommon occurrence; but it was too poor a skin to keep. I had also a damaged specimen sent to me, labelled "Fort Stockton, collected by P. Duffy."

During my stay at Matamoras I never noticed this bird, but was told by a sportsman living there that a very small Night-Hawk, which I imagine to be this species, is very common at a rancho about twenty-five miles from Matamoras, on the Monterey road.

CHORDILES POPETUE (Vieillot). Night-Hawk.

At Matamoras this and the two following species were abundant during the summer-season, and about dusk thousands of Night-Hawks might be seen flying in towards the river from the prairies. I shot a good many, and found this species less common than the two others; still there was no want even of these birds.

At San Antonio I found *C. popetue* and *C. texensis*, but never procured a single specimen of *C. henryi*; nor has Dr. Heermann ever procured one there. This species, however, is not common at San Antonio, as I only procured one specimen there.

CHORDILES HENRYI (Cassin). Western Night-Hawk.

Very abundant at Matamoras and as far east as the Sal Colorado, after which I saw none.

Bill black; iris black; legs purplish-black.

CHORDILES TEXENSIS (Lawrence). Texas Night-Hawk.

Very common at Matamoras during the summer season, and thence to San Antonio and the eastward. At San Antonio I first noticed them (in the spring) on the 2nd May, when I saw seven or eight flying about at noon-day. A few days later they were very numerous. They remain there until the end of September, and soon after disappear, as I noticed none later than the first week in October.

CERYLE ALCYON (Linnæus). Belted Kingfisher.

Common in the Rio Grande and throughout Texas, where it remains to breed.

Beak horn-blue; legs dark blue-grey; iris dark brown.

CERYLE AMERICANA (Gmelin). Texas Kingfisher.

I noticed a couple of these birds at Matamoras in August, and found them common on the Nueces and Leona Rivers, at which latter places they breed. In December I noticed several near Eagle Pass. It is, however, by no means so common a bird as the preceding.

MILVULUS FORFICATUS (Gmelin). Scissor-tail.

I found this beautiful and graceful bird very abundant at Matamoras and in Western Texas (where it is known by the name of "Texan Bird of Paradise"), as far east as the Rio Guadalupe. It arrives in the neighbourhood of San Antonio late in March, and remains until the middle or latter end of October. It breeds abundantly near San Antonio, building its nest in a mezquite or wesatche tree, and laying from three to four eggs, which are pure white, blotched with large spots of a dark red colour.

These birds are of a quarrelsome and fearless disposition, rarely brooking intruders near their home: during the breeding-season I have often, when travelling, pulled up to admire four or five of them fighting on the wing, and showing their long tails and the rich scarlet colour under the wings to the fullest advantage. To the eastward I saw none of these birds after passing the Guadalupe River, but was told that they have occasionally been seen on Galveston Island.

The difference in the plumage of the sexes is very slight, the female generally having the tail somewhat shorter, and the scarlet under the wing rather paler, than the male.

Male. Beak blackish-brown; legs black; iris chestnut-brown.

TYRANNUS CAROLINENSIS, Baird. King-bird.

[Observed occasionally near San Antonio in the spring and autumn.—A. L. H.]

I myself never saw this bird at San Antonio, but in May and June found it numerous near Gonzalez, Bastrop, Alleyton, and Houston. Early in June I found several nests, containing eggs, on Galveston Island, all however too near hatching to allow of their being blown.

? TYRANNUS COUCHI, Baird. Couch's Flycatcher.

I saved out of the wreck of my skins, collected at Matamoras,

one, a female of either this bird or *Tyrannus melancholicus*; but as the tail is somewhat damaged, it is hard to decide to which species it belongs. Dr. Sclater tells me he thinks it to be *T. couchi*, but says he is not quite sure. Whichever it be, I found the species, in July and August 1863, not uncommon near Matamoras and Brownsville, where it was breeding; but on my second visit to that town in August 1864, I saw none, though I visited the same places where I had shot several the year before.

Female. Beak blackish brown; legs brownish lead-colour; iris brown.

MYIARCHUS CRINITUS (Linnæus). Great Crested Flycatcher.

I have a couple of specimens shot at San Antonio in the month of April.

MYIARCHUS MEXICANUS (Kaup). Ashy-throated Flycatcher.

Arrives at San Antonio at the latter end of April, the first that came under my notice being one I shot on the 23rd of that month on the Medina. It breeds near the Medina and San Antonio Rivers, making its nest in a hollow tree, or taking possession of a deserted Woodpecker's hole. I noticed these birds as far east as the Guadalupe River, where they were common; but further to the eastward I observed very few.

The eggs are peculiarly marked with a multitude of purple and brown dashes and lines on a dull yellowish-brown ground, and are very similar to those of *Myiarchus crinitus*.

Male. Beak brownish-black, light blue at the base of the lower mandible; legs black; iris dark brown.

SAYORNIS FUSCUS (Gmelin). Pewee.

[Only seen near San Antonio, in its migrations north and south.—A. L. H.]

Not common about San Antonio; indeed I did not notice more than three or four during the spring. I suppose, however, that it breeds near Houston, as I saw several at that place early in June.

SAYORNIS SAYUS (Bonaparte). Say's Flycatcher.

I first noticed this bird in the month of November 1863, when walking in the garden of the arsenal at San Antonio, and there of course could not shoot it. On my journey to Eagle

Pass in December, I saw several daily, and generally noticed them in pairs. They would perch on a bush by the roadside, occasionally darting off after some insect, and, so soon as we drove near, would fly on to a convenient perch some distance ahead, thus keeping in advance of us for miles.

During the months of January and February they were not uncommon; but after that I lost sight of them altogether. They seem to prefer the open country, as I generally found them on the prairies, and never in the mezquite thickets.

Male. Bill black; gape orange-yellow; legs black; iris dark brown. Stomach containing small insects.

CONTOPUS BOREALIS (Swainson). Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Not uncommon near San Antonio during the winter season.

CONTOPUS RICHARDSONI (Swainson). Short-legged Pewee.

Very common near Matamoras during the summer, and breeding there. I also shot one specimen near San Antonio in May.

Bill dark brown above, light below; iris dark brown; legs black; stomach containing small insects.

CONTOPUS VIRENS (Linnæus). Wood-Pewee.

Very common in the wooded river-bottoms near San Antonio during the summer, arriving late in April or early in May. The call-note is a low prolonged whistle.

Upper mandible brown; lower mandible dull flesh-colour; legs black; iris dark brown; stomach containing minute coleopterous insects.

EMPIDONAX TRAILLI (Audubon). Traill's Flycatcher.

Common during the summer-season near San Antonio and to the eastward, breeding there, and building a small hanging nest. I also had the eggs sent to me from Systerdale.

Upper mandible dark brown; lower mandible dull light brown; legs blackish; iris dark brown; stomach containing minute insects.

EMPIDONAX MINIMUS (Baird fratt.). Least Flycatcher.

Common near San Antonio during the summer.

Bill dark brown above, lighter below; legs blackish; iris dark brown; stomach containing small insects.

EMPIDONAX ACADICUS (Gmelin). Small Green-crested Flycatcher.

Not uncommon near San Antonio during the summer.

Upper mandible dark brown; lower mandible light flesh-colour; iris brown; legs blackish. Stomach containing small insects.

EMPIDONAX FLAVIVENTRIS (Baird fratt.). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Common near San Antonio during the summer, arriving there in April.

Bill dark above, fleshy brown below; legs blackish; iris dark brown. Stomach containing insects.

PYROCEPHALUS RUBINEUS (Boddaert). Red Flycatcher.

A fine male specimen was shot on the San Pedro, near San Antonio, in August 1863, and sent to Dr. Heermann, who kindly gave it to me. On the 25th September, when shooting near the San Pedro, I noticed one, a young male, and after some trouble succeeded in killing it. It was very shy, and made its way through the low wesatche bushes like a Hedge-Sparrow. On the 5th April, 1864, I again shot a young male after a chase of nearly an hour, when I got a long shot at it and knocked it over. It was quite as shy as the one I procured before, but, unlike that, it kept to the more open part of the country, and always perched on some elevated place. Its note somewhat resembled that of *Milvulus forficatus*.

Young Male. Bill brownish black; legs dull brown; iris dark hazel.

TURDUS NANUS, Audubon. Dwarf Thrush.

[I procured the eggs once on the Medina.—A. L. H.]

TURDUS MIGRATORIUS, Linnæus. American Robin.

Not uncommon near San Antonio during the winter, and found more abundantly during a severe "norther."

SIALIA SIALIS (Linnæus). Bluebird.

[Comes in the winter, and sometimes breeds here.—A. L. H.]

I noticed large flocks of these birds in the Bandera Hills in November. After that time I observed a few occasionally until February, later than which I saw none.

SIALIA ARCTICA (Swainson). Rocky-Mountain Bluebird.

[Comes in the winter, but breeds abundantly further north. I have eggs from the north-west coast.—A. L. H.]

Very abundant throughout the whole of Southern Texas during the winter; indeed I shot fifteen in one forenoon, in order to pick out choice specimens for skinning. A German sent me a couple of eggs from Systerdale, which he said were of this bird, and which on comparison agree with those in the collection of Dr. Heermann.

Male. Beak and legs black; iris dark brown. Stomach containing hack-berries.

REGULUS CALENDULA (Linnæus). Ruby-crowned Wren.

Common at San Antonio during the winter.

REGULUS SATRAPA (Lichtenstein). American Golden-crested Wren.

Found at San Antonio during the winter months.

ANTHUS LUDOVICIANUS (Gmelin). Louisiana Pipit.

Not uncommon near San Antonio during the months of December and January.

MNIOTILTA VARIA (Linnæus). Black-and-white Creeper.

Noticed first at San Antonio about the middle of March. Dr. Heermann tells me that he has found it breeding on the Medina.

PARULA AMERICANA (Linnæus). Blue Yellow-backed Warbler.

Passes San Antonio in the spring and autumn.

GEOTHLYPIS TRICHAS (Linnæus). Maryland Yellow-throat.

I noticed great numbers on the Medina early in May, and also shot several in September.

GEOTHLYPIS PHILADELPHIA (Wilson). Mourning Warbler.

Early in May I shot five in the long weeds growing in the Medina river-bottom. They were abundant, but shy, and difficult to get near.

In 1864 the migration of the Warblers must have been unusually late, for Dr. Heermann told me that he generally found them passing late in March or early in April; and

accordingly I kept a sharp look out about that time, but until the commencement of May I scarcely shot any, and then, unluckily, I had very little time to spare. Dr. Heermann was out several times, but, owing to his lameness, he could only make his way through the long weeds with difficulty, and besides was unable to shoot with any degree of precision. Thus our stock of Warblers is unusually small, considering the rich field we had for our operations.

OPORORNIS FORMOSUS (Wilson). Kentucky Warbler.

Passes San Antonio in the spring and autumn.

I saw several on the Medina in May, but only shot one specimen.

HELMINTHOPHAGA CHRYSOPTERA (Linnæus). Golden-winged Warbler.

Passes San Antonio in the spring and autumn.

HELMINTHOPHAGA RUFICAPILLA (Wilson). Nashville Warbler.

Passes San Antonio in the spring and autumn. On the 6th May I found it on the Medina, and shot several.

HELMINTHOPHAGA CELATA (Say). Orange-crowned Warbler.

Passes San Antonio in the spring and autumn.

SIURUS NOVEBORACENSIS (Gmelin). New York Water-Thrush.

[Found all the summer on the banks of the Medina.—A. L. H.]

I shot one specimen in December, but did not see any more until the 24th April, after which I noticed them daily.

DENDRÆCA VIRENS (Gmelin). Black-throated Green Warbler.

Passes San Antonio in the spring and autumn. I noticed it as early as March, and shot one specimen then.

DENDRÆCA CHRYSOPARIA, Sclater.

One specimen was procured by a young man named Ogden, together with several other Warblers, at his step-father's (Howard's) rancho on the Medina. He gave it to Dr. Heermann, who kindly transferred it to me, as Ogden collected for us both,

and I gave my attention more particularly to birds, whereas Dr. Heermann is more particularly an egg-collector*.

DENDRÆCA CANADENSIS (Linnæus). Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Passes San Antonio in spring and autumn.

DENDRÆCA CORONATA (Linnæus). Yellow-rumped Warbler.

[Some few pass the winter here, but most of them are only seen on their usual migration.—A. L. H.]

DENDRÆCA BLACKBURNIÆ (Gmelin). Blackburnian Warbler.
Common near San Antonio in spring and autumn.

DENDRÆCA CASTANEA (Wilson). Bay-breasted Warbler.
Passes San Antonio in spring and autumn.

DENDRÆCA ÆSTIVA (Gmelin). Yellow Warbler.

Common near San Antonio in spring and autumn. It occasionally breeds near the Medina River, and I also found it breeding on the Colorado River and near Matamoras.

DENDRÆCA MACULOSA (Gmelin). Black-and-yellow Warbler.
Passes San Antonio in spring and autumn.

DENDRÆCA SUPERCILIOSA (Boddaert). Yellow-throated Warbler.

Passes San Antonio in spring and autumn.

[I observed several about Brownsville in December 1862.—A. L. H.]

MYIODIOCTES MITRATUS (Gmelin). Hooded Flycatcher.

Found occasionally near San Antonio in the spring and autumn.

MYIODIOCTES PUSILLUS (Wilson). Green Black-cap Flycatcher.

Passes San Antonio in spring and autumn. Early in May I noticed several in company with some of the preceding species, and shot a couple.

MYIODIOCTES CANADENSIS (Linnæus). Canada Flycatcher.

Not uncommon near San Antonio in spring and autumn. Early in May I shot several on the Medina.

* Cf. Ibis, 1865, pp. 88, 237.

SETOPHAGA RUTICILLA (Linnæus). American Redstart.

Very common near San Antonio in the spring and autumn. On the Medina I noticed the first on the 27th April.

PYRANGA RUBRA (Linnæus). Northern Scarlet Tanager.

[I shot one in the early spring on the Medina some years ago. It breeds at El Paso, on the upper Rio Grande.—A. L. H.]

On the 23rd April I followed one for some distance, near the San Pedro, but did not succeed in shooting it.

PYRANGA ÆSTIVA (Gmelin). Summer Redbird.

Common during the summer season near San Antonio, arriving there about the middle of April.

HIRUNDO HORREORUM, Barton. Barn-Swallow.

Common during the summer both at Matamoras and San Antonio. They arrive at Eagle Pass early in March, as I noticed the first on the 9th of that month.

HIRUNDO LUNIFRONS, Say. Cliff-Swallow.

Common at San Antonio and Matamoras during the summer. At Eagle Pass I noticed a couple on the 7th March, and on the 10th they were very numerous. In July, on the way from Nuevo Laredo to Matamoras, when seeking after water, I saw a long cliff overhanging a ravine, which was literally covered with the nests of these birds.

COTYLE RIPARIA (Linnæus). Sand-Martin, or Bank-Swallow.

Common throughout the whole country. I noticed the first at Eagle Pass on the 20th February.

COTYLE SERRIPENNIS (Audubon). Rough-winged Swallow.

At Eagle Pass, the first of these birds I noticed arriving from the south I saw on the 21st February. Both there and near San Antonio they are very common during the summer, breeding in the towns, making their nests under the eaves and in holes in the old walls, and laying pure white eggs, the first of which, that I got, were taken at San Antonio on the 25th April.

Male. Bill black ; legs brownish-black ; iris dark brown.

PROGNE PURPUREA (Linnæus). Purple Martin.

Common in all the parts of Texas that I visited during the summer. There, as in the north, these birds are universally

protected, and "Martin-houses" are set up near almost all the dwellings in the country. At Eagle Pass I noticed the first on the 6th March, and a few days later they were very numerous.

AMPELIS CEDRORUM (Vieillot). Cedar-bird.

Very common during the winter at San Antonio and Eagle Pass, but I noticed none later than the middle of April.

PHAINOPEPLA NITENS (Swainson). Crested Black Flycatcher.

When at Eagle Pass, I had taken up my quarters in the powder magazine at Fort Duncan, and in front of my abode there were a few mezquite trees scattered about. On one of these I had several times observed a bird which, when on the wing, seemed to have pied wings, but when perched seemed of a uniform black colour. I at last succeeded in shooting it, and found it to be an adult male of this species. It had the bill and legs black; iris blood-red; and the stomach filled with the berries of a sort of mistletoe that grows abundantly on the mezquite trees. Some days later, when sitting writing near the open door, I saw another of these birds on a tree near. I watched it with an opera-glass for some minutes, and noticed that the crest was carried erect, and was much recurved, like that of our *Parus cristatus*; then taking up my gun, which was close to me, I shot it from where I sat. These two were the only examples of the species that came under my notice during my stay in the country.

COLLYRIO LUDOVICIANUS (Linnæus). Logger-head Shrike.
Common near San Antonio during the summer.

VIREO OLIVACEUS (Linnæus). Red-eyed Vireo.
Noticed near San Antonio in the spring and autumn.

VIREO GILVUS (Vieillot). Warbling Vireo.

I first noticed this species on the 5th April in a mezquite thicket near San Antonio, where I noticed a pair, but only secured the male bird. The call-note was a long continued hissing or churring sound, and the song very sweet. Dr. Heermann has found this bird breeding near the Medina and San Antonio.

Legs light blue lead-colour; iris dark brown.

VIREO BELLII (Audubon). Bell's Vireo.

Not uncommon during the summer near San Antonio, and remaining there to breed. I found a nest on the 2nd July, in a wesatche bush near the San Pedro, containing three eggs of this species and one of the Cow-Bunting (*Molothrus pecoris*); but being anxious to procure the bird also, I left it, and on my return some days later I found the foster-parent there, but the nest was torn down, and the eggs on the ground, all smashed, excepting that of the *Molothrus*, which I now have, together with the bird, which I shot. Dr. Heermann found a nest on the Medina about the same time. The nest of this species is beautifully formed of fine grass, and hung from the small twigs of some tree. The eggs, three to four in number, are very small, white, with an occasional reddish dot on the larger end. The nest that Dr. Heermann took was attached to the pendent twigs of a willow tree.

Male. Upper mandible dark brown; lower mandible light brownish blue; iris brown. Stomach containing small green caterpillars.

VIREO NOVEBORACENSIS (Gmelin). White-eyed Vireo.

Common near San Antonio during the summer, and remaining there to breed.

VIREO SOLITARIUS (Wilson). Blue-headed Vireo.

I noticed and shot several of these birds near San Antonio late in the autumn and early in the spring, but do not think any remain there to breed.

MIMUS POLYGLOTTUS (Linnæus). Mocking-bird.

This unrivalled songster is one of the commonest birds throughout the country. In July 1863, on my arrival at Matamoras, I found lots of young birds offered for sale in the market-place, at a *picayune* (three pence) each, and bought several, but was unable to rear them, as they required so much of my time. I even found a nest, containing fresh eggs, as late as that.

Near San Antonio they are also very common, and are very early breeders, as I found their eggs and those of the Cardinal (*Cardinalis virginianus*) some time before I found any of the

other smaller birds breeding. They build a somewhat bulky nest of prickly sticks, lined with fine roots and grass, and lay from three to five eggs. As cage-birds they are held in high esteem, and to my knowledge a Mexican at Matamoras refused forty dollars for one that had been in his possession for a couple of years. It had become very tame, and was a perfect adept at mimicking the notes of many birds occurring there, and even the cries of other animals. They are very difficult to rear, but in this respect the Mexicans are more successful than strangers; which fact may be attributed partly to the patience with which they constantly attend to them, and partly to the food they give them, which is a sort of paste composed chiefly of maize-meal and Chili colorado (red pepper).

OREOSOPTES MONTANUS (Townsend). Mountain Mocking-bird.

Not uncommon near San Antonio during the winter months, and very common near Eagle Pass, where they are found on the plains near the town. When disturbed they run and dodge through the cactuses and mezquite bushes, seldom taking wing unless driven to an open place. They seem to prefer the flat bush-covered plains, and I seldom saw one on a tree. A lad, who was collecting for me, procured a couple of the eggs of this bird in the middle of May, during my absence at Houston. These are now in Dr. Heermann's possession. As a general thing, however, I do not think they breed in that part of the country, since I never noticed any there during the summer.

Male. Legs light brown; bill blackish-brown; iris bright yellow. Stomach containing small insects.

HARPORHYNCHUS CURVIROSTRIS (Swainson). Curve-billed Thrush.

At Matamoras I found this bird very common during the summer months, but did not notice any nearer San Antonio than the Rio Nueces. During my stay at Eagle Pass in February and March I found them abundant, and was told by the Mexicans that they remain there to breed. On my journey towards Matamoras, in July 1864, I found many nests, but all either empty or with young, except one near Roma, which contained

a single fresh egg. I had no trouble in identifying it, as the bird remained in the same tree the whole time.

The nest of this bird is bulky, generally composed of prickly sticks, lined with grass and fine roots, and not unlike a Magpie's nest on a small scale. The egg much resembles that of *Harporhynchus rufus*, but is of a rather brighter colour. They are fond of frequenting small villages, and I have generally found the nests in the gardens or courtyards of the houses near the road.

Male. Bill blackish; legs light brown; iris light orange-yellow. Stomach containing beetles and caterpillars.

CAMPYLORHYNCHUS BRUNNEICAPILLUS (Lafresnaye). Brown-headed Wren.

In December 1863, when at Eagle Pass, I noticed several of these birds amongst the cactuses on the sand-plains near the village. They were very shy and difficult to shoot, as they dodged through the bushes, running very swiftly. Between Eagle Pass and the Rio Nueces I noticed a few, but further north and east of that river I never saw any. In July 1864, after passing the Nueces on my way to Laredo and Matamoras, I observed numerous nests on the roadside. Some were half-finished, and probably deserted in that state; others contained young birds; while others, again, were already left by the young birds. In one only did I find eggs. They were three in number, and I now have them in my collection. The nest of this bird is composed externally of light-coloured straws, and internally of cotton, if placed near the roads along which cotton was being hauled; but otherwise, of feathers of every description; indeed by tearing up an old nest I could form a pretty good idea of the birds frequenting that part of the country. In the lining of one I tore up, between Guerrero and Laredo, I could distinguish feathers of five different species of birds.

The nest, which is purse- or poke-shaped, is generally placed on the top of a dead bush in some exposed place, or between the large leaves of a cactus plant; and the eggs (which, to judge from the number of young I noticed in several nests and the one nest I took, are from three to four in number) are of a peculiar dark salmon-colour.

Male. Bill blackish; lower mandible dull light bluish at the base; legs flax-brown; iris reddish-brown.

CATHERPES MEXICANUS (Swainson). White-throated Wren.

Not uncommon near San Antonio, remaining there to breed. One of these birds frequented the printing-office at San Antonio, an old, half-ruined building, where its familiar habits made it a great favourite with the workmen. They told me that the previous spring it had built a nest and reared its young in an old wall close by.

In the following spring (1864) I went again to look for it, but was told that it had disappeared, having probably met the fate that generally befalls favourites—that of death from the claws of a cat—as it had become very tame.

At Dr. Heermann's rancho on the Medina we procured the eggs both of this and the two following species (*Thryothorus ludovicianus* and *T. bewicki*) ; and as Dr. Heermann amused himself by nailing up small cigar-boxes, having a hole cut in front, in every place where these birds were likely to build, we had ample means of watching them. Indeed we had only to lift up the lid in order to see the progress they had made ; for these birds do not (so far as my experience goes) build a covered nest ; and when we wished to take one we took box and all, thus having the nest ready packed !

THRYOTHORUS LUDOVICIANUS (Lichtenstein). Great Carolina Wren.

Not uncommon near San Antonio, remaining there throughout the year. We procured the first eggs of this bird on the 20th April, out of a nest in one of Dr. Heermann's cigar-boxes ; but on the 27th April I found a nest containing young birds in a similar receptacle, which had been put away under the eaves of a house near San Antonio.

Male. Bill dark brown ; base of lower mandible light brown ; legs light flesh-brown ; iris brown.

THRYOTHORUS BEWICKI (Audubon). Bewick's Wren.

Not so common as the preceding species, but by no means rare near San Antonio. On the 1st April we procured three eggs from a nest built in one of the cigar-boxes. The eggs of this bird much resemble those of *T. ludovicianus*, but are somewhat smaller in size.

Male. Bill light brown ; base of lower mandible lighter ; legs purplish-grey ; iris brown.

TROGLODYTES HYEMALIS (Vieillot). Winter-Wren.

Only an occasional visitor to the neighbourhood of San Antonio.

CERTHIA AMERICANA, Bonaparte (var. *mexicana*, Gloger). American Creeper.

Not uncommon in southern and south-western Texas. I often noticed it on the Medina and San Antonio rivers. I have two specimens which I shot in March. Dr. Heermann tells me that he has found the nest of this bird near Howard's rancho on the Medina River.

SITTA CAROLINENSIS, Gmelin. White-bellied Nuthatch.

I noticed this bird often, when on the Medina, late in April and early in May, and procured several specimens.

POLIOPTILA CÆRULEA (Linnæus). Blue-grey Gnatcatcher.

In March 1864, when peccary-hunting on the Rio Savonal, I found these birds very abundant, but a week later I could not discover a single one. In April, however, I noticed several near San Antonio. I have one specimen which I shot on the Hondo in March.

Male. Upper mandible blackish; lower mandible light brown; legs dark lead-colour; iris dark hazel. Stomach containing minute coleopterous insects and gnats.

POLIOPTILA MELANURA, Lawrence. Black-tailed Gnatcatcher.

I shot a fine male specimen of this bird on the San Antonio River on the 30th September, 1863, but, unfortunately, almost blew it to pieces, and thus was unable to make even a passable skin of it.

LOPHOPHANES BICOLOR (Linnæus). Tufted Titmouse.

I shot one specimen of this bird on the Medina, 9th April, 1864, and at the same time noticed several others. This, however, was the only occasion on which I observed this bird in Texas.

LOPHOPHANES ATRICRISTATUS, Cassin. Black-crested Titmouse.

Very common near San Antonio and Houston, remaining there to breed. The nest, however, is difficult to find, as the

birds are very wary. I found one in a hollow tree at the head springs of the San Antonio River late in April; but it contained young.

I shot a Titmouse at Matamoras in August 1863, which I am almost sure was *Lophophanes inornatus*, but unfortunately the skin was lost with the rest of the specimens I collected there.

Male. Bill black; legs dark lead-blue; iris dark brown.

PARUS CAROLINENSIS, Audubon. Carolina Titmouse.

Not uncommon in the neighbourhood of San Antonio.

EREMOPHILA CORNUTA (Wilson) (var. *occidentalis*, McCall). Western Shore-Lark.

From October to the end of March the prairies near San Antonio swarm with Shore-Larks, and great numbers are shot for the table. When at Galveston in May and June 1864, I noticed and shot several specimens; and though I could not succeed in finding any nests, I feel sure that they were breeding there.

On comparing two specimens, both adult males, one shot at Musquash, New Brunswick, in December 1861, and the other at San Antonio in December 1863, I find the Texan specimen much less in size ($\frac{5}{8}$ in. shorter); the bill somewhat smaller; the back and wings much paler in colour; the crown jet-black, instead of black dashed with yellow; the forehead and line over and beyond the eye dull white, instead of yellow; auriculars dull white, with a tinge of straw-colour, whereas in the New Brunswick specimen they are yellow, and the throat of the Texan specimen of a somewhat paler tinge.

CHRYSOMITRIS TRISTIS (Linnæus). Yellowbird.

[Not uncommon near San Antonio during the summer-season.—A. L. H.]

PLECTROPHANES ORNATUS, Townsend. Chestnut-collared Bunting.

Found in flocks, early in the spring, on the prairies near San Antonio, but is not a common bird.

PLECTROPHANES MELANOMUS, Baird. Black-shouldered Bunting.

On the 4th April Dr. Heermann noticed near the town of San

Antonio a small flock of (as he supposed) Chestnut-collared Buntings; and as I wanted some specimens, he and I went, the same evening, in search of them, and found them on the banks of the San Pedro. Though they were not very shy, we only succeeded in getting a shot apiece at them: I knocked down two, and he one. On picking them up, Dr. Heermann instantly recognized them to be *P. melanomus*, a bird which hitherto he had not noticed in that part of the country. I followed the flock for some distance, but was unable to procure any more.

Male. Upper mandible brownish horn-colour; lower mandible with the tip and a line underneath nearly black; legs brownish-black; iris dark brown. Stomach containing small seeds.

PLECTROPHANES MACCOWNI, Lawrence. M'Cown's Bunting.

This bird is found in small flocks, early in April, on the prairies near San Antonio. It is not very common, and I only procured two specimens during my stay in that part of the country.

PASSERCULUS ALAUDINUS, Bonaparte. Lark-Sparrow.

Early in April I found this bird very common on the San Pedro, close to the town of San Antonio, and shot several specimens. I generally found them in parties of two or three, amongst the rushes and flags that cover the banks of the streams.

Male. Upper mandible dark brown; lower mandible dark flesh-colour; legs light cinnamon; iris dark brown. Stomach containing small seeds.

POECETES GRAMINEUS (Gmelin). Grass-Finch.

Common near San Antonio in August and September, as well as in May and June; a few remaining to breed there.

COTURNICULUS PASSERINUS (Wilson). Yellow-winged Sparrow.

[Not uncommon in the summer-season near San Antonio.—
A. L. H.]

I procured a single specimen near San Antonio in the early summer.

CHONDESTES GRAMMICA (Say). Lark-Finch.

Very abundant throughout Texas during the summer, arriving in the neighbourhood of San Antonio late in March, and leaving early in October. I found many nests, and have collected a large series of the eggs of this bird. The nest, which is formed of fine roots and grass, is generally placed on a mezquite tree or bush; and the eggs, which vary in number from three to five, are white, spotted and streaked with black and blackish-brown.

Male. Bill horn-blue; lower mandible paler; legs flesh-colour; iris brown.

ZONOTRICHIA GAMBELI (Nuttall). Gambel's Finch.

Common near San Antonio during the winter, arriving late in September or early in October. Some few may remain there to breed, as I noticed two or three about in June.

Male. Bill brown; legs cinnamon-brown; iris dark hazel.

ZONOTRICHIA QUERULA (Nuttall). Harris's Finch.

Occurs near San Antonio in the spring, when on its migration north. I procured two specimens on the Medina.

JUNCO HYEMALIS (Linnæus). Snow-bird.

[Found occasionally near San Antonio.—A. L. H.]

POOSPIZA BILINEATA (Cassin). Black-throated Sparrow.

In July and August I found this beautiful little Sparrow very abundant in the mezquite thickets near the town of Matamoras. In December it was equally common at Eagle Pass; but at San Antonio it is quite a rare bird. I noticed it on two or three occasions at Howard's rancho, on the Medina River; and late in June a nest containing four eggs was brought to the rancho. These are now in Dr. Heermann's possession.

On my way to Laredo and Matamoras, in July 1864, after passing the Nueces River, this bird was very abundant; and near Laredo I found several nests, some containing young birds, and some eggs near hatching. One nest, however, which I took on the 20th July, contained three fresh eggs. These I now have in my collection, having shot the bird in order to identify them satisfactorily. The nest was placed in a low bush, and carefully concealed. It was composed of straws, lined with

fine roots ; and the eggs, three in number, are nearly white, with a delicate bluish tinge.

On my journey down the river I found many nests, all, however, either containing young or empty ; some of these were partly lined with cotton.

Although not wild, still I found these birds very restless and difficult to shoot, as they dodge and creep through the low bushes so as to be soon lost sight of. I never heard any note from them excepting a low chirp.

SPIZELLA PUSILLA (Wilson). Field-Sparrow.

I noticed a few of these birds near San Antonio in December and March, and shot a couple of specimens.

SPIZELLA SOCIALIS (Wilson). Chipping Sparrow.

I saw and shot a single specimen near San Antonio, on the 10th April 1864.

SPIZELLA PALLIDA (Swainson). Clay-coloured Sparrow.

In the month of April Dr. Heermann and I found this bird plentiful in the fields near San Antonio, consorting with *Melospiza lincolni* and other Sparrows. They remained until about the middle of May, after which I noticed none. Dr. Heermann told me that he had never observed any near San Antonio before this year (1864).

Male. Bill light brown at base, dark brown along the top and at the tip ; legs light clay-yellow, with a reddish tinge ; iris dark brown. Stomach containing small seeds.

MELOSPIZA LINCOLNI (Audubon). Lincoln's Song-Sparrow.

From March to May I found this bird very abundant in the fields near the San Antonio River and in some swampy ground. They seem to prefer this sort of locality, and the banks of the rivers, keeping amongst the flags and rushes.

Male. Bill dark brown ; legs light brown ; iris brown. Stomach containing small seeds.

PEUCEA CASSINI (Woodhouse). Cassin's Finch.

[Not rare on the prairies near the Medina, where they pass the season and breed.—A. L. H.]

When at Howard's rancho early in May, I found this bird by

no means uncommon, but only saved one specimen. The species is easily distinguished as it rises in the air from a bush, with a peculiar fluttering motion of the wings, at the same time singing, and will suddenly drop into the bushes again. During my absence at Houston, Dr. Heermann procured the eggs on the Medina; and I myself, when travelling towards Laredo in July, found a nest which I am nearly certain was of this bird; but I was unfortunately unable to shoot the owner (though I saw it pretty distinctly), as I had left my gun in camp, and only had a revolver with me. The nest was placed on a low bush not above a foot from the ground, and in its construction resembled that of *Poospiza bilineata*. The eggs, three in number, were pure white (thus agreeing with those taken by Dr. Heermann), and rather larger and more elongated than those of the species just mentioned. They were, however, so near hatching that I was only able to save one, and that with so large a hole that it is almost worthless as a specimen.

CALAMOSPIZA BICOLOR (Townsend). Lark-Bunting.

Common near San Antonio during the winter. In December I noticed several flocks near Eagle Pass. They frequented the roads, pecking amongst the horse-dung; but are shy, and when disturbed the whole flock go off together, uttering a low, melodious whistle. In May and June several were about near Howard's rancho; and on my return from Houston in June, I succeeded in shooting one in the full summer plumage, when its specific name is peculiarly appropriate. I do not, however, think that, as a general thing, they remain to breed near San Antonio.

Male. Bill and legs pale brown; iris dark brown.

EUSPIZA AMERICANA (Gmelin). Black-throated Bunting.

Early in May I found numbers of these birds in the mezquite thickets near the San Antonio and Medina Rivers; and, as I found them equally numerous in July, I may safely infer that they breed there. Dr. Heermann got some eggs near the Medina that he thought were those of this species; but he was unable to procure the bird, or to see it close enough to satisfy himself as to what it was.

Male. Bill horn-blue; legs light brown; iris dark brown. Stomach containing small seeds.

GUIRACA LUDOVICIANA (Linnæus). Rose-breasted Grosbeak.
[Once noticed near San Antonio.—A. L. H.]

GUIRACA CÆRULEA (Linnæus). Blue Grosbeak.

Common near Matamoras in July and August. It breeds there; but, owing to the lateness of the season, I was unable to procure the eggs.

Male. Bill dark horn-blue above, light blue below; legs brownish-black; iris dark brown.

CYANOSPIZA CIRIS (Linnæus). Nonpareil.

Very common during the summer both at Matamoras and San Antonio, breeding at both places.

PYRRHULOXIA SINUATA, Bonaparte. Texan Cardinal.

Why this bird should be called the "Texan" Cardinal I cannot make out, for it is rather a straggler from Mexico than a bird of Texas. Near Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras I found it abundant; but after travelling a few miles into Texas it becomes scarce, and further north and east than the Leona I never noticed one. I was told by the Mexicans that quantities breed near the town of Eagle Pass, and I saw not a few in cages that had been reared from the nest.

It is a shy bird, and difficult to shoot. When followed, it flies about uneasily, perching on the top of some high bush, and erecting its long crest, uttering a clear plaintive whistle. Sometimes it would take to the thick brushwood and creep through the bushes; so that it was impossible to get a shot at it. On the lower Rio Grande it is of uncommon occurrence; but I noticed one pair near Matamoras in August 1864.

Male. Bill yellow; upper mandible rather dusky; iris dark brown; legs brownish flesh-coloured. Stomach containing very small seeds.

CARDINALIS VIRGINIANUS, Bonaparte. Cardinal.

Common throughout Texas during the summer, and indeed almost all the year, excepting where *Pyrrhuloxia sinuata* is found. In such localities it is not so abundant as that bird. At Matamoras it is very common, and may be seen, caged, in almost every Mexican hut. I took quantities of the eggs of this species near San Antonio in April and May.

PIPILO ARCTICUS, Swainson. Arctic Towhee.

When deer-hunting in the Bandera Hills, in November 1863, I noticed several of these birds near our camp, and shot three specimens. I also procured several near San Antonio during the winter.

Male. Bill horn-blue ; legs flesh-coloured ; iris bright red.

Amongst the specimens shot near San Antonio is one that corresponds pretty well with Professor Baird's description of *Pipilo megalonyx* ; but I am somewhat doubtful as to its being anything but a variety of *P. arcticus* with rather long claws.

MOLOTHRUS PECORIS (Gmelin). Cow-bird.

Very common throughout the country ; but I only once found the egg of this species, which, like our Cuckoo, makes no nest of its own, but deposits its egg in the nest of some small bird. The one I found was in the nest of a *Vireo belli* ; and, to judge from other nests brought to me containing Cow-birds' eggs, they seem to make use of the nests of the small Flycatchers in preference to those of other birds.

AGELÆUS PHŒNICEUS (Linnæus). Red-winged Starling.

Very common, breeding abundantly on the banks of the rivers and streams. By the side of the Rio Grande and the San Antonio River I have seen vast flocks roosting in the reeds.

XANTHOCEPHALUS ICTEROCEPHALUS (Bonaparte). Yellow-headed Blackbird.

In the autumn of 1863 I shot a couple of this species, which were the only specimens that I then saw ; but on the 23rd April 1864, when taking my usual early morning-walk outside San Antonio, I found the prairie literally covered with these birds. During the ensuing week vast flocks remained near the town, after which they disappeared suddenly, nor did I subsequently notice any more.

STURNELLA NEGLECTA, Audubon. Western Meadow-Lark.

Very common during the winter near San Antonio, and a few remain there to breed. I did not, however, succeed in procuring more than three eggs, which are similar to those of *Sturnella magna* in colour and marking, but somewhat smaller in size.

ICTERUS SPURIUS (Linnæus). Orchard-Oriole.

Very common near San Antonio during the summer, arriving early in April. I procured several of the nests of this species, all composed of light-coloured flexible grasses, and suspended from the upper branches of mezquite trees or bushes. Near Houston and on Galveston Island I also found them breeding. I noticed that the Texan bird is considerably smaller than that found in the Northern States; this, however, is probably only a difference caused by the climate.

ICTERUS BALTIMORE (Linnæus). Baltimore Oriole.

Abundant near Matamoras; but I was too late to procure the eggs. Near San Antonio I never noticed this bird, but once saw one near Houston.

SCOLECOPHAGUS CYANOCEPHALUS (Wagler). Brewer's Black-bird.

On my arrival at Matamoras, in July 1863, I noticed this bird in the streets in company with the next species and *Molothrus pecoris*, and was told by the Mexicans that it breeds there; but it was then too late to procure any eggs. In the winter vast flocks frequented the roads near, and the streets of San Antonio and Eagle Pass; they were as tame as London Sparrows. Their note, when on the wing, is a low whistle; but when congregated in the trees, they keep up an incessant chattering.

Male. 24th October, 1863. Bill and legs black; iris pale yellow.

Female. 5th March, 1864. Bill black; legs brownish-black; iris nearly white.

QUISCALUS MACRURUS, Swainson. Long-tailed Grackle.

Very common at Matamoras, where they frequent the streets and yards, showing no signs of fear. They breed there in quantities, building a heavy nest of sticks, lined with roots and grass. I examined several nests, but found them either empty or containing young. They are fond of building in company; and in the yard of the Matamoras Hotel I counted seven nests in one tree. At Eagle Pass, and as far north and east as the Nueces River, I found them not uncommon, but never noticed any further in the interior of Texas than that.

Their usual note is a loud, not unmelodious whistle; but they have also a guttural note, which I can only compare to the sound caused by drawing a stick sharply across the quills of a dried goose-wing. When emitting this sound, they stretch their necks, erecting the feathers on the neck, spreading the tail, and half opening and shaking the wings.

The plumage of the young bird is of a dingy brown colour, exactly the same shade as that of the young bird of *Sturnus vulgaris*.

QUISCALUS MAJOR, Vieillot. Boat-tailed Grackle.

When at Houston and Galveston, in May and June 1864, I noticed several of these birds.

? CORVUS CARNIVORUS, Bartram. American Raven.

A Raven smaller in size than, but otherwise resembling the bird I have noticed in New Brunswick, was common at San Antonio during the winter, frequenting the slaughter-houses. When in the Bandera Hills, in November 1863, several came to our camp to feast on the offal of the deer we killed. I shot one, which I now have in my collection. It may be *Corvus cacalotl*, if not *C. carnivorus*; but never having seen a specimen of the former bird, I am unable to decide with any degree of certainty.

CORVUS CRYPTOLEUCUS, Couch. White-necked Crow.

This bird came under my notice on two occasions at Eagle Pass, in March 1864.

CORVUS AMERICANUS, Audubon. American Crow.

Very common in North-eastern Texas during the whole year, but not common between San Antonio and the Mexican frontier.

? CYANURUS CRISTATUS (Linnæus). Blue Jay.

I was told by several hunters that the Blue Jay is found near San Antonio, but I never succeeded in seeing one during my wanderings. Some blue-coloured Jay is certainly found near there, but is rare. When on Buffalo Bayou, near Houston, I saw several Jays, in a grove of magnolias, which seemed to be dark ash-coloured on the back, with the head and neck, wings, and tail blue and black. They were, however, so shy that I could not succeed in shooting one.

